

PROJECT TITLE: FWP LONG-RANGE APPROPRIATION STATUS PROJECT

Project Rationalization:

State accounting data indicates that some of the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) long-range appropriations are not being expended in a timely manner. Because the projects are designated as “capital projects”, the appropriations remain valid until the projects are completed, or the appropriations are fully expended. In some cases, FWP has unexpended capital project appropriations authorized by the 57th Legislature, almost eight years ago. As appropriation authority is unexpended, substantial amounts of authority is accumulated, especially for those projects to which funds are appropriated in each biennium.

This analysis would help the legislature determine if the FWP long-range appropriations exceed the needs and would result in a more efficient appropriation process for the future. With the assistance of FWP personnel, the legislature could determine if and when it is fitting to accumulate appropriation authority. Because state dollars back all appropriations, the reversion of any unnecessary unused authority could free up money that could be used for other needs of the state.

Mission:

The mission of this project is to improve the FWP long-range capital project appropriation process.

Goals:

The goals of this project are to determine how much unused authority exists in FWP long-range project appropriations, if there is an acceptable rational for the accumulation appropriation authority, if past appropriations have been excessive, if unused appropriations should be reverted, and to provide recommendations for the FWP capital project appropriation process to the 61st Long-Range Planning Subcommittee.

Objectives:

The objectives of this project are to collect specific capital project appropriation data from the state accounting system between the 2001 biennium and the 2009 biennium, analyze the status of all capital project appropriations, discuss the analysis with personnel from FWP, and develop recommendations for the 61st Long-Range Planning Subcommittee. If this project goes forward, more specific objectives will be developed.